

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 /073 W

----- 073179

R 160819Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5496

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: HOSTILITIES IN MINDANAO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. LOCAL PRESS HAVEN MODERATE PUBLICITY TO RECENT SERIES OF ATTACKS BY MUSLIM GUERRILLAS AND/OR BANDITS IN PAGADIAN AND NEARBY AREAS OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR PROVINCE IN MINDANAO. IN JULY 10 INCIDENT FIVE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) "REGULARS" THREW GRENADES ATTEMPTING TO BLOW UP VARIOUS BUILDINGS AND ASSASSINATE MAHOR OF PAGADIAN. MAYOR ESCAPED AND PRESS REPORTED NO CASUALTIES. (9, JULY 13 TWO VILLAGES IN SAME GENERAL AREA WERE ATTACKED BY BANDITS. EIGHT VILLAGEERS WERE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED IN ASSAULT ON DIMALINAO. AT SECOND SITE, DIMATALING, CONSTABULARY DETACHMENT ALLEGEDLY REPUSED ATTACKERS IN "FIERCE EIGHT-HOUR BATTLE AT DOWN" INFLECTING UNDETERMINED CASUALTIES ON FOE. ACCORDING PRESS SEVEN REBELS HAD BEEN KILLED IN PREVIOUS ATTACK A WEEK EARLIER IN DIMATLING.

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2. WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS (NOT PUBLISHED LOCALLY) PORTRAY

THESE INCIDENTS AS PART OF GENERAL UPSWING IN HOSTILITIES
INTENDED BY REBELS TO DRAMATIZE THEIR CAUSE WHILE JIDDA
ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN PROGRESS.

3. COMMENT: EVIDENCE AVAILABLE THUS FAR DOES NOT SUPPORT
SUGGESTION THAT REBELS HAVE OPENED GENERAL OFFENSIVE
IN SUPPORT OF MNLF POSITION AT JIDDA. THE PAGADIAN INCI-
DENTS ARE STANDARD FARE. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COLLEGUES
WHO HAVE AN AID PROJECT IN PAGADIAN AREA WHICH THEY
MONITOR CLOSELY SAY THAT THEIR PERSONNEL HAVE NOT REGISTERED
ANY PARTICULAR ALARM AND THAT INCIDENTS APPARENTLY LESS RECENT
THAN STATED BY PRESS. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS OF INCREASED
FIGHTING FROM SCATTERED SITES IN COTABATO BUT AGAIN,
NOTHING THAT CLEARLY TRANSCENDS NORMAL CYCLICAL PATTERN OF
VIOLENCE. PURNELL

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Message Attributes

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